

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A biocompatible polymer composite for use in thermally-related medical therapies, the composite comprising a base polymer component and a dispersed filler component, the filler component having a thermal conductivity of less than 5 W/m-K, wherein the composite is formed into microshells having hollow cores.

16. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with a gas.

17. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with CO₂.

18. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with first and second cooperating polymerizable components.

19. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with a drug.

20-39 (Canceled)

40. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising an electrically conductive filler component dispersed within the base polymer component.

41. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising an anti-oxidizing agent dispersed within the base polymer component.

42. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising a cross-linking agent dispersed within the base polymer component.

43. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising a ferromagnetic filler component dispersed within the base polymer component.

44. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising a chromophore filler component dispersed within the base polymer component.

45. (New) The biocompatible polymer composite as in Claim 15, further comprising a light reflecting filler component dispersed within the base polymer component.